



VISITOR CENTER INTERNSHIP- 2011

Do you enjoy interacting with preserve visitors and assisting them in understanding and appreciating the preserve's natural and cultural resources while living and working in beautiful south Florida? As a visitor center intern you would gain experience in interacting with the visiting public, operating the visitor centers, and gain knowledge on a variety of topics including wildlife biology, botany, forest ecology geology, and history and park management.

Applicants must be college students or recent graduates majoring in the natural, physical or cultural sciences, communication, education, natural science interpretation, or recreation and resources management. In our training we use the NPS Interpretive Competencies Program.

AREA INFORMATION

Big Cypress National Preserve is located in South Florida on Highway 41 just 30 miles east of Naples and 70 miles west of Miami. Temperatures during the winter months are usually in the 80s during the day and 60s to 70s at night. Everglades City, six miles SW of Headquarters, is the closest town, with small grocery, convenience stores, gas stations, and restaurants. The area lends itself to kayaking, canoeing, fishing, birding and many other recreational activities. Check our website: www.nps.gov/bicy for more area information.

JOB TITLE: Visitor Center Intern

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The interpretation staff interacts directly with park visitors. Upon completion of training, the job consists of:

- Maintain stock of all publications at information desk
- Visitor Services and Everglades Association sales
- Interns work a minimum of 40 hours per week. Visitor center(s) are open 7 days per week 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Staff the visitor center information desks providing information to visitors in person, by phone or in written responses to requests for information about the resource, preserve policies, local area and other parks and attractions
- Rove the visitor center grounds and boardwalks informing visitors of the resource, wildlife and safety concerns or operational changes
- Work on special projects as assigned. Depending on the season the intern may research, develop and present a variety of thematic interpretive programs to the public including auditorium talks, swamp/wet walks, canoe trips and campfire programs

Interns may have the opportunity to assist with projects in other divisions including resource management, fire, administration, maintenance and law enforcement, and will visit other agencies and attractions in the area as part of their training.

DATES OF SERVICE: Three to eight month internships year round.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Applicants will be ranked according to their knowledge, skills and abilities in the following areas:

- Ability to work with all age groups
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Skill in enthusiastically sharing knowledge with others
- Ability to communicate effectively, both speaking and writing
- Experience or interest in interpretation and/or environmental education

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

- Possess a valid driver's license
- Be able to walk over uneven terrain
- Wear the approved NPS uniform (brown pants, tan shirt and NPS Volunteer cap) and observe the same personal appearance standards required of NPS rangers

BENEFITS

- Opportunities for cross-training with other park divisions
- Laundry facilities, a pool and a weight room are also available
- Participate in Interpretive training and learn visitor center operations
- On site government housing may be available at no cost to the intern
- The position is designed to give you first hand workplace experience in a National Park Service site.
- **Depending on funding this position may or may not provide a stipend of \$150 per week**
- Interns are covered for injuries and liability while on duty by the Federal Workers Compensation Act and Tort Claims Act
- Upon completion of the program, interns will have received the equivalent of a season's experience working for the National Park Service which could be of benefit in applying for future jobs

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Please mail the following:

- College transcript
- Dates of availability
- Three references, preferably with e-mail addresses
- Detailed resume listing education, work experience and other interests
- Cover letter stating your reason for applying and what you hope to achieve from the internship

DEADLINES – Applications must be on site by June 1, 2011.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Thank you for applying to Big Cypress National Preserve’s interpretive internship program.